



## Lesson: Owl Pellets



Sketch By: Adam Nisbett

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### Introduction to the Lesson/Activity

This lesson examines owl pellets classifying birds as a group of animals. They have feather covering their bodies, scales covering their

legs, and reproduce by laying eggs. Lesson is geared to 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders.

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### Objectives

The students will:

1. learn to question about objects, organisms, and events in the environment.
2. plan and conduct a simple investigation.

3. employ simple equipment and tools such as magnifiers, thermometers, and rulers to gather data.

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### Materials

Owl pellet  
Bone chart  
Magnifying glass

Dissection recording sheet  
Dissection tools ( tweezers &  
Toothpick)  
Millimeter ruler

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**Activity**

Pre-lab discussion: You will dissect owl pellets and examine the bones of the small mammals they eat. You will identify the bones, determine their appropriate locations in the skeleton, and compare them to the bones found in the skeleton of a human. Clean the bones of debris as completely as possible and sort them according to their types( skull, vertebrae, femurs, ect..) using the Bone-sorting guide.

1. Place the owl pellet on a piece of white paper.
2. Measure the length and diameter of the object and describe the color and texture, Record your results.
3. Using dissecting tools dissect the object and sort all objects found inside of the owl pellet according to their shapes.

4. Using the bone sorting guide as a reference, identify the objects found in the owl pellet and where these objects came from.
5. Have students record their observation on the owl pellet and answer the essential questions.
6. Have the students develop a class chart to find out the number of species found, the average number of prey animals per pellet, total number of pellets examined.

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**Key Vocabulary**

Organisms Environment Investigation

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**Essential Questions**

1. Why was the owl pellet created?
2. How many different species of prey animals were there in one pellet?
3. What types of prey animals did the owl eat?
4. What do you think you will discover in the investigation of the owl pellets?

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**Oklahoma Pass Standards****Grade 3**

Process and Inquiry- Standard 1, Standard 2  
Standard 3, & Standard 4

Life Science-Standard 2

Math- Standard 4

**Grade 4**

Process and Inquiry- Standard 1, Standard 2  
Standard 3, & Standard 4

Life Science: Standard 3

Math- Standard 4

**Grade 5**

Process and Inquiry- Standard 1, Standard 2  
Standard 3, & Standard 4

Life Science: Standard 2

Math- Standard 4

**Grade 6**

Process and Inquiry- Standard 1, Standard 2  
& Standard 4

Life Science: Standard 4

**Grade 7**

Process and Inquiry- Standard 1, Standard 2,  
& Standard 4

Life Science: Standard 2

**Grade 8**

Process and Inquiry- Standard 1, Standard 2, &  
Standard 4

Life Science: Standard 3